

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty and concern for ones fellow man; and,

Whereas, Rita A. Patterson will retire with 40 years of federal service to the citizens of the United States of America on the 6th day of August, 2004, after working in four federal agencies in her career—the Agricultural Research Service, the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Economic and Community Development, and Rural Development; and,

Whereas, Rita's career has spanned five decades, the terms of nine Presidents of the United States, served under the direction of nine state directors, nine supervisors/managers, and served in four cities; and,

Whereas, It is estimated that Rita has processed more than 1,800 housing loans during her career, which means that numerous families were able to realize the dream of home ownership as a result of her hard work; and,

Whereas, Rita's first employee review conducted by the Farmers Home Administration in 1967 read, "Appears to be working out well, but doubt if she will stay as she is getting married.>"; and,

Whereas, Rita has a warm and loving family that includes a devoted husband, three children, three step-children, four grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and more family and friends that are too numerous to list; and,

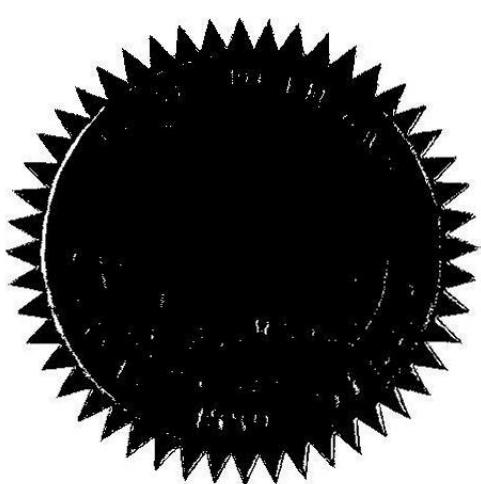
Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture Service Center in Rapid City will host a luncheon at noon on Friday, August 5, 2004, in order for her family, friends, and many co-workers to have an opportunity to honor and thank Rita for her 40 years of service:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 5, 2004, as

RITA A. PATTERSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with her family and friends in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.




M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:




Chris Nelson, Secretary of State